



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris listen as Garnell Whitfield Jr., who lost his mother Ruth Whitfield in the Tops market mass shooting in Buffalo, speaks during an event to celebrate the passage of the "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act," on the South Lawn of the White House, Monday, July 11, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

Biden celebration of new gun law clouded by latest shooting

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden welcomed a crowd to the White House lawn Monday to showcase a new law meant to reduce gun violence, celebrating "real progress" after years of inaction. But he also lamented the country remains "awash in weapons of war" — with the 16-day-old law already overshadowed by yet another horrific mass shooting. The bill, passed after recent gun rampages in Buffalo, New York, and Uvalde,

Texas, incrementally toughens requirements for young people buying guns, denies firearms to more domestic abusers and helps local authorities temporarily take weapons from people judged to be dangerous. But the "celebration" Monday morning came a week after a gunman in Highland Park, Illinois, killed seven people at an Independence Day parade, a stark reminder of the limitations of the new law in addressing the American phenomenon of mass gun violence. And it comes as Democrat-

ic governors have taken up the mantle of offering outrage in the face of gun violence. Biden hosted hundreds of guests on the South Lawn, including a bipartisan group of lawmakers who crafted and supported the legislation, state and local officials — including Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Roter — and the families of victims of both mass shootings and everyday gun violence.

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Meet the 'Fighter for Kids' The reason why Carolina Thiel-Span is like the Energizer bunny



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Six therapists will be introduced in the social sector



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Continued from Front

"Because of your work, your advocacy, your courage, lives will be saved today and tomorrow because of this," Biden said.

"We will not save every life from the epidemic of gun violence," he added, "But if this law had been in place years ago, even this last year, lives would have been saved."

Still, Biden said, "we're living in a country awash in weapons of war." He repeated his call on Congress to pass a federal ban on assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines — or at minimum to require more stringent background checks and training before purchases.

He also said Congress should pass legislation to hold gun owners legally accountable if their weapons are improperly stored and are used to commit violence. He noted that he owns four shotguns and said he keeps them secured at his home.

"We can't just stand by," Biden said. "With rights come responsibilities. If you own a weapon, you have a responsibility to secure it and keep it under lock and key."

Biden on Saturday invited Americans to share with him via text — a new White House communications strategy — their stories of how they've been affected by gun violence, tweeting that "I'm hosting a celebration of the passage of the Safer Communities Act." He



Manuel Oliver, father of Parkland shooting victim Joaquin Oliver, interrupts President Joe Biden as he speaks during an event to celebrate the passage of the "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act," a law meant to reduce gun violence, on the South Lawn of the White House, Monday, July 11, 2022, in Washington. Oliver was escorted out of the event.

Associated Press

told some of their stories on Monday — of people traumatized by shootings and kids left orphaned.

The new law is the the most impactful firearms-violence measure Congress has approved since enacting a now-expired assault weapons ban in 1993. Yet gun control advocates — and even White House officials — say it's premature to declare victory.

"There's simply not much to celebrate here," said Igor Volsky, director of the private group Guns Down America.

"It's historic, but it's also the very bare minimum of what Congress should do," Volsky

said. "And as we were reminded by the shooting on July 4, and there's so many other gun deaths that have occurred since then, the crisis of of gun violence is just far more urgent."

Volsky's group, along with other advocacy groups, was holding a news conference on Monday outside the White House calling on Biden to create an office at the White House to address gun violence with a greater sense of urgency.

Biden has left gun control policy to his Domestic Policy Council, rather than establishing a dedicated office like the one he opened to address climate change

or the gender policy council he started to promote reproductive health access.

"We have a president who really hasn't met the moment, who has chosen to act as a bystander on this issue," Volsky said. "For some reason the administration absolutely refuses to have a senior official who can drive this issue across government." During his remarks Monday, Biden was heckled by Manuel Oliver, whose son Joaquin was killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Biden briefly paused his speech and asked Oliver, who was

shouting, to sit down, before adding "Let him talk, let him talk," as he was escorted out of the event.

The president signed the bipartisan gun bill into law on June 25, calling it "a historic achievement" at the time.

On Monday, Biden said the law's passage should be a call for further action.

"Will we match thoughts and prayers with action?" Biden asked. "I say yes. And that's what we're doing here today."

On Friday, Biden responded to the assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by taking note of how the shooting had shocked people in Japan. The country has a strikingly low incidence of gun violence compared to the U.S., which has experienced thousands of gun deaths already this year.

Most of the new law's \$13 billion in spending would be used for bolstering mental health programs and for schools, which have been targeted by shooters in Newtown, Connecticut, and Parkland. The law was the product of weeks of closed-door negotiations by a bipartisan group of senators who emerged with a compromise.

It does not include far tougher restrictions that Democrats and Biden have long championed, such as a ban on assault-type weapons and background checks for all gun transactions. Prospects are slim for any further congressional action this year. □

U.S. extends legal protection for Venezuelans for 18 months



Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, speaks during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on May 4, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Hundreds of thousands of Ven-

ezuelans who fled their country's humanitarian crisis and are in the United States under temporary legal protection will be allowed to remain for another 18 months, the Biden administration announced Monday.

An estimated 343,000 Venezuelans already in the United States were given Temporary Protect Status, or TPS in March of 2021, allowing them the chance to legally live and work in the country for 18 months. Only they will be eligible for the extension that will run until March, 10, 2024.

Homeland Security Secre-

tary Alejandro Mayorkas called it "one of many ways the Biden administration is providing humanitarian support to Venezuelans at home and abroad, together with our regional partners. We will continue to work with our international partners to address the challenges of regional migration while ensuring our borders remain secure." Venezuela is mired in a deep political, social and economic crisis attributed to plummeting oil prices and two decades of mismanagement by socialist governments. Millions live in poverty amid high food

prices, medication shortages, low wages and four-digit inflation. That has pushed about 5 million Venezuelans to flee in the past few years, mostly to neighboring South American countries, but many have settled in South Florida.

Many of those who immigrated to the U.S. have applied for asylum and their cases are still making their way through the courts. Immigrants from more than a dozen countries have become eligible for the program created in 1990 for people from nations stricken by civil strife or natural disasters. □



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Judges rule on state abortion restrictions, shape Roe impact

By SAM METZ, JENNIFER McDERMOTT and STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A judge in Utah was deciding Monday whether to allow a trigger-law ban on abortion to take effect while a Minnesota judge declared most of that state's restrictions on abortion unconstitutional, as the implications of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* are being sorted out nationwide.

In Michigan, a campaign turned in a record-breaking number of signatures so voters can be asked on the November ballot whether to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution. Last month's *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that found that the right to abortion was protected by the U.S. Constitution. The issue reverted to the states, setting off new court battles and ballot initiatives as many states act to curtail or ban abortions.

Utah is among more than a dozen states with trigger laws designed to limit abortion upon the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The Utah law bans nearly all abortions, except for in cases of rape, incest or when maternal health is threatened. A Republican-appointed judge blocked its enforcement for 14 days after the state's branch of Planned Parenthood sued. Planned Parenthood argues the law violates the Utah Constitution's equal protection and right to privacy provisions. Utah's at-



A large crowd marches on Cedar Avenue to downtown during a University of Minnesota student led protest in Minneapolis, Minn., after the Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade* on Friday, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

orneys argue that state abortion bans pre-dating *Roe* span to when the state constitution was drafted and accuse Planned Parenthood of trying to "interrupt and ultimately override the Legislature's judgment." The judge's temporary restraining order expired Monday. District Court Judge Andrew Stone is now deciding whether to grant a preliminary injunction, which would let Planned Parenthood clinics continue to provide abortion care until the court rules on the constitutional questions.

Since the case began, another Utah law banning most abortions after 18 weeks took effect. The judge in Minnesota declared most of the state's restrictions on abortion un-

constitutional, including a 24-hour waiting period and a requirement that both parents be notified before a minor can get an abortion. Ramsey County District Judge Thomas Gilligan also struck down requirements that only physicians can perform abortions and that abortions after the first trimester must be performed in hospitals. His order took effect immediately, meaning the limits can't be enforced.

Gender Justice and other abortion rights supporters argued that the restrictions were unconstitutional under a 1995 Minnesota Supreme Court holding that the state constitution protects abortion rights. The judge called that case "significant and historic" and said it's unaffected by the

recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

"These abortion laws violate the right to privacy because they infringe upon the fundamental right under the Minnesota Constitution to access abortion care and do not withstand strict scrutiny," Gilligan wrote.

Opponents of abortion rights condemned the decision. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life said the laws challenged in the case are "common sense measures that support and empower pregnant women" and striking them down blocks residents from "enacting reasonable protections for unborn children and their mothers." A Republican attorney general candidate called on the Democratic attorney gen-

eral to appeal.

Alongside lawsuits to challenge bans, abortion rights supporters are trying to add ballot questions to enshrine abortion rights in state constitutions.

More than 750,000 signatures were turned in by the campaign in Michigan on Monday — close to double the number needed. The Democratic governor and attorney general in the battleground state have both made abortion rights a centerpiece of their re-election campaigns.

"The number of signatures showed that here in Michigan we trust women. We trust people. We trust doctors, not politicians, to make decisions about our body, our pregnancy and parenthood," Reproductive Freedom for All spokesperson Shanay Watson-Whittaker said during a news conference in Lansing.

The signatures still must be verified and validated. A judge has temporarily blocked a 1931 Michigan law that would make abortion a felony except when "necessary to preserve the life of such woman."

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has said that the law is invalid under the due process and equal protection clauses of the state constitution. The injunction, which stems from a Planned Parenthood lawsuit, could be revoked at any time.

Last week, backers of a last-minute effort to enshrine abortion rights in the Arizona Constitution failed to collect enough signatures to make the November ballot. □

Judge won't delay trial for Trump ex-adviser Steve Bannon

By **NOMAAN MERCHANT**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Monday declined to delay the upcoming trial of Steve Bannon, a one-time adviser to former President Donald Trump who faces contempt of Congress charges after refusing for months to cooperate with the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection.

Bannon is still scheduled to go on trial next week despite telling the House committee late Saturday that he is now prepared to testify. It's unclear whether Bannon will again decline to appear before the committee with the trial pending.

Bannon was also barred from asserting several potential defenses or calling House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or members of the House committee to the stand. The series of rulings by U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols left one of his attorneys complaining that the former White House senior official, now host of the "Bannon's War Room" podcast, wouldn't be able to defend himself at all.

Barring an appeals court



Steve Bannon's attorney, M. Evan Corcoran, arrives at the Federal Courthouse for a hearing for Bannon on Monday, July 11, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

ruling or another delay, the trial will begin as the committee continues its high-profile hearings into the riot. Testimony by former White House aides has revealed new allegations that Trump knew the crowd was heavily armed and that he tried to join the people marching to the Capitol.

Nichols also barred Bannon's attorneys from arguing that the committee

violated House rules in demanding Bannon's appearance or that Bannon defied the subpoena on the advice of his defense counsel or at Trump's order. And Nichols declined to delay the trial from its current start on July 18, saying any concerns about pretrial publicity due to the hearings could be addressed during jury selection. If it proves impossible to pick

an unbiased jury, the judge said he would reconsider granting a delay.

Bannon could potentially argue he thought the deadline to respond to the subpoena may not have been "operative" or that the date to respond could have been moved, said Nichols, who was nominated to the bench by Trump. The rulings led one of Bannon's attorneys, David

Schoen, to speak out in frustration as he sought clarification from the judge. "What's the point of going to trial here if there are no defenses?" Schoen asked.

"Agreed," Nichols responded.

Bannon did not appear in court Monday. Speaking to reporters outside the courthouse, Schoen said he questioned whether Bannon could effectively defend himself given Nichols' rulings and hinted he would appeal.

"He's the judge," Schoen said of Nichols. "That's why they have a court of appeals."

The 68-year-old Bannon had been one of the highest-profile Trump-allied holdouts in refusing to testify before the committee, leading to two criminal counts of contempt of Congress last year for resisting the committee's subpoena. He previously argued that his testimony is protected by Trump's claim of executive privilege.

Trump has repeatedly asserted executive privilege — even as a former president — to try to block witness testimony and the release of White House documents. □

S.C. Governor seeks to protect port from landmark's pollution



The World War II-era aircraft carrier USS Yorktown sits at its mooring at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, S.C., on March 15, 2013.

Associated Press

By **JAMES POLLARD**

Associated Press/Report for America

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The nation's ninth-busiest port is at risk of pollution by

more than 100,000 gallons (378,500 liters) of fuel from a Navy aircraft carrier that served in World War II and the Vietnam War before its decommissioning and des-

ignation as a National Historic Landmark.

The USS Yorktown — located in Charleston Harbor — is experiencing continued corrosion on its outer hull. If hazardous materials leak into the harbor, Republican Gov. Henry McMaster warned it would impair commercial shipping and harm the ecosystem.

McMaster — who has supported environmental protection in office but failed to get the endorsement of conservation groups in his 2018 gubernatorial bid — took steps Monday to minimize that risk.

Speaking at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant, the Republican governor announced an executive order directing the state's Office of Resilience to study the cost of remedia-

tion efforts and remove all 140,000 gallons (530,000 liters) of fuel from the USS Yorktown.

The aircraft carrier also picked up the Apollo 8 crew and spacecraft in 1968 after the first human mission to the moon.

"This is a special place for a whole lot of reasons," McMaster said at a Monday afternoon news conference. "It's been entrusted to us. And we have to be sure that it continues to flourish."

U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina called the action "a win for our community" and "for the environment."

Two of the substances found on the ship are polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and polychlorinated biphenyls, according to Robert Boyles, Jr., direc-

tor of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Those two substances are not water soluble.

If they are not removed, Boyles said they could accumulate in the sediment and sit at the bottom of Charleston Harbor "for a long time."

Mount Pleasant Mayor Will Haynie, an ex-officio member of the Patriots Point Development Authority Board, said the executive order would protect the state's coastline as well as its seafood and tourism industries. "When you pick up any piece of grass or any twig, you realize you're connected to the entire universe," Haynie said, paraphrasing naturalist John Muir. "Everything on that ship, effectively, can negatively affect the entire universe." □

Mexico, U.S. presidents to meet amid newly tense relationship

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S.-Mexico relationship — a straightforward tradeoff during the Trump administration, with Mexico tamping down on migration and the U.S. not pressing on other issues — has become a wide range of disagreements over trade, foreign policy, energy and climate change.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is to visit Washington on Tuesday to meet with President Joe Biden, a month after López Obrador snubbed Biden's invitation to the Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles. Mexico's leader had demanded that Biden invite to the summit the leaders of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela — all countries with anti-democratic regimes — and he has also called U.S. support for Ukraine "a crass error."

On that, and other issues, it's clear López Obrador is getting along much worse with Biden than with Donald Trump, who threatened Mexico, but wanted only one thing from his southern neighbor: stop migrants from reaching the border. "I think it is more that the Biden administration has tried hard to re-institutionalize the relationship and restore the relationship that's not centered solely on immigration and trade. And I think as a result that leads to issues coming up that AMLO is less comfortable talking about," Andrew Rudman, director of the Mexico Institute at the Wilson Center, said, using the Spanish acronym by which Mexicans refer to the president.

U.S. officials want López Obrador to retreat on his reliance on fossil fuels and his campaign to favor Mexico's state-owned electricity utility at the expense of foreign-built plants powered by gas and renewable energy. Washington has filed several complaints under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement pushing Mexico to enforce environmental laws and rules guaranteeing trade union rights.



President Joe Biden meets with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Nov. 18, 2021.

López Obrador also has angrily rejected any U.S. criticism of the killings of journalists in Mexico or his own efforts to weaken checks and balances in Mexico's government. He is also angered by U.S. funding of civic and non-governmental groups in Mexico that he claims are part of the opposition.

It all adds up to a witches' brew in bilateral relations. "At the end of the day, the problem is that you have the complete mismatch in this relationship," said Arturo Sarukhan, who served as Mexico's ambassador to the U.S. from 2006 to 2013. The United States "needs Mexico as a key partner on everything from 'near shoring' (manufacturing for the U.S. market) ... in terms of competitiveness, in terms of North American energy security, energy independence, energy efficiency," Sarukhan said.

"The problem is you have a Mexican president who doesn't care about any of these things."

What the Mexican president is interested in talking about is inflation, which in June spiked to almost 8%. Inflation and the economic after-effects of the pandemic are leading an increasing number of Mexicans to emigrate. 22 of the 53 migrants who recently died after being abandoned by smugglers in a

semi-trailer in Texas were Mexican.

"We have to look for a way to act together, help each other in controlling inflation," López Obrador said Friday. "That is a topic I am going to propose. We have a plan."

Before departing for Washington Monday, López Obrador said he planned to speak to Biden about con-

trolling inflation, immigration and security. He said a group of business leaders, including Carlos Slim, Mexico's wealthiest citizen, would accompany him. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Friday that the Bidens are looking forward to welcoming Lopez-Obrador and his wife at the White House.

"They will discuss a broad

and deep agenda, including joint efforts on migration, food security and economic opportunity, and so the president looks forward to having that conversation," Jean-Pierre said.

She sidestepped questions about Lopez Obrador's repeated public criticism of the Biden administration, including U.S. efforts to extradite Wikileaks founder Julian Assange from the U.K. for prosecution.

"We see AMLO, the president of Mexico, as a partner," she said, adding that many conversations would be had. "And I'm going to leave it at that."

The question is how hard the Biden administration is willing to push Mexico on anything.

With Republicans like Texas Gov. Greg Abbott relentlessly pointing at the migration issue, Mexico holds huge leverage. It is under no obligation to accept anyone returned at its border except Mexican citizens, but it has allowed the U.S. to continue to deport migrants of other nationalities under Title 42 health regulations. □

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Nigeria jailbreak raises more questions over insecurity

By CHINEDU ASADU

Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Nigerian authorities on Monday admitted shortcomings in security at a jail in the nation's capital after an attack that resulted in the escape of hundreds of inmates last week.

The jailbreak in the Kuje area of Abuja led to the escape of 879 inmates, including 64 members of the Islamic State West Africa Province extremist group which claimed responsibility for the attack. The Islamic State-linked group is an offshoot of the Boko Haram militant group which has launched a decade-long insurgency in northeast Nigeria. One of the escapees from Kuje prison was arrested on Monday, Nigeria's National Drug Law Enforcement Agency said, but with at least 400 inmates still on the run, authorities are expanding the search to neighboring states.

Nigeria is synonymous with jailbreaks which have become more rampant in recent years but it was the first time during that period that Abuja is being targeted, leaving many shocked and in fear over how safe they are as the West African nation battles a cycle of violence blamed on Is-



Broken walls are seen at the Kuje maximum prison in Abuja after a rebel attack, Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Associated Press

lamic extremists and on armed groups mostly in the country's troubled north.

"Kuje (prison) is the most fortified in the country," said Rauf Aregbesola, Nigeria's interior minister. "We had enough men to protect the facility but unfortunately they couldn't hold their position effectively for defense and that was the reason for the breach," the minister said after visiting

the attacked prison.

Even the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari could not provide answers to questions from citizens about how the attackers overwhelmed the security forces on duty and about how safe they are in the country of 206 million people. Buhari had more questions instead.

"How can terrorists organize, have weapons, at-

tack a security installation and get away with it?" the Nigerian leader tweeted. Incessant jailbreaks across Nigeria have seen more than 3,000 inmates freed since the start of 2021, media reports show. With the latest in the nation's capital, the Nigerian Correctional Service has begun an appraisal to know "where we have challenges and how to nip it in the bud,"

said Umar Abubakar, a spokesman for the agency, admitting also that the jailbreak was "a fallout of the security challenges" facing Nigeria.

For many Nigerians, Abuja used to be the "shock-absorber" where they run to for safety when other parts of Nigeria suffer attack, said Usman Ahmed, a taxi driver. But recent security incidents such as a train attack that killed seven nearby in late March and the Kuje jailbreak mean "nowhere to run to," he said.

Authorities blamed the train attack and the jailbreak on extremist rebels that have waged an insurgency in northeast Nigeria for more than a decade. Those rebels are now expanding their reach beyond the northeast region to other parts of Nigeria including the north-central region where Abuja is located, according to analysts.

"There are several terrorist cells already operating in northcentral, northwest and northeastern parts of Nigeria," said Oluwaseyi Adetayo, a former officer of the Nigerian secret police Department of State Services now working as a security expert. "Many of them are already being activated." □

U.S. rejects 'Serbian world' advocated by Serbian minister



Serbia Defense Minister Aleksandar Vulin, right, walks behind Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, April 23, 2018.

Associated Press

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC

Associated Press Writer

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — A senior Serbian minister on Monday advocated

the creation of a "Serbian world" that would unite all Serbs in the Balkans into a single state, rejecting a U.S. warning that such calls

could fuel tensions in the still-volatile region rocked by bloody wars in the 1990s. "I dream of the unification of Serbs, just as all my ancestors dreamed of it," Serbia's Interior Minister Aleksandar Vulin said. "I know that one day it will be completed, peacefully, without violence and conflict."

He was responding to a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade on Monday, which said that such "comments of the minister of the interior about the unification of all Serbs into one state are not in accordance with the Dayton Agreement and contradict Serbia's integration into European structures."

The U.S.-sponsored Dayton peace agreement reached in 1995 ended a bloody Bosnian war that killed more than 100,000 people and left millions homeless. But it also left Bosnia divided into a fragile federation that links an area run by Bosnian Serbs with another run by Bosniaks and Croats. Bosnian Serb leaders openly want to leave that unity government and join neighboring Serbia.

The U.S. Embassy was reacting to Vulin's earlier interview with the government-controlled Politika daily in which he said "the only way for the Balkans to remain stable is for the Serbs to live in one state."

Serbs are widely blamed for triggering the bloody breakup of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s under a nationalist call to create "Greater Serbia," the unification of all lands in the Balkans where Serbs live with Serbia.

The "Serbian world" call is a copy of Moscow's "Russian world" demand that seeks the creation of another Soviet Union or a Russian Empire under Moscow's control that would also include Ukraine.

Although formally seeking European Union membership, traditional Russian ally Serbia has refused to join Western sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. □

Minister of Culture in dialogue with interest group to preserve Aruba's cultural inheritance

Aruba must also talk about slavery and its impact on our present in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

On the first of July, Minister of Culture, Xiomara Maduro, together with Mr. Luc Alofs, Mr. Clifford Rosa, Ms. Nadia Dresscher and Ms. Yolanda Richardson reflected over the topic of slavery in Aruba. This past first of July marked 159 years since the Netherlands abolished slavery in the colonies of Suriname and Netherlands Antilles.

Slavery and its impact on the present is a current topic in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, which also needs to receive the necessary attention in Aruba. To start the necessary dialogue for Aruba, Maduro met with this interest group, which carries out research on the topic of slavery in



Aruba.

The objective of the dialogue is to share with the community the information that came out of the research that was already

conducted on this topic, to explore the possibility for more research, and also to provide information on the dialogue that is being carried out within the Kingdom, as well as the pro-

cess that must take place in order that one day 'an act of apologies' can take place, as well as a way in which compensation can be given for the historical pain, which was also lived

in Aruba, according to the minister.

"It is important for us to be aware of all that happened, so that we can accept that this is a dark part of the shared history of the Kingdom of the Netherlands so we can avoid repeating this mistakes against humanity, which currently are still reflected through discrimination and distinction.

A long journey begins with just one step, and for this reason minister Maduro considers the meeting which was held with the interest group as one of the steps to open the dialogue on slavery and its consequences in Aruba." □

Six therapists will be introduced in the social sector On the basis of 'multi-dimensional family therapy'

ORANJESTAD – Recently, the minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon held a meeting with the Social Security Council (Sociaal Veiligheidsraad), during which he received a thorough presentation of the new method which will be introduced, namely the Multi-dimensional Family Therapy (MDFT).

This involves a systematic therapy method for young people with one or more behavioral problems, which mainly involve problems of delinquency or substance addiction. This therapy method will provide lasting help to the families of these young people. This method will seek to mitigate the risk that the young person can be locked up; and will also provide guidance to the family so that when the young person recovers their freedom, they can reintegrate back into the family, and the family itself can guide the person. Shortly, six therapists will begin this course, in order to be able to provide this ser-

vice to the community as soon as possible.

It is the case that the Social Security Council meets regularly. It is a platform where all agencies come together, including Veiligheidshuis (safety house), the Department of Social Affairs, Voogdijraad (Child Protection Services), Family Justice Center, KIA (prison), Police Force, Fundacion Guami. During this meeting, all these agencies indicated that his method has added value, because it is not only focused on one person but on the whole family and the whole system. Aside from this, the return on investment is that after a while, these people will not fall back into the system, but they will be helped and they will receive lasting help.

The course will have the duration of one year, meaning it will begin this upcoming September and it will finish next June, in 2023. It is intended to start with some cases in order to put it into practice right away,

seeing that the method used is quite practical, so it will help the family not only through accentuating the bad parts, but more so correcting them, in order to truly help these families. MDFT professionals from the Netherlands will come to Aruba specially to give this course to the six therapists. The good part is that this method is sufficiently flexible, that can be adapted to the culture of Aruba.

Finally, an agreement was made that Veiligheidshuis will remain as point of coordination, which will make sure that when the cases are presented, these can be assigned to one of these therapists, and this way can be guaranteed that they receive the necessary help.

Thus according to a government press release, it was a very positive meeting towards a better future for the social chain, which will result in a reduced case load for some of the agencies, with the help of these six therapists. □





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SCAN QR CODE:
PREVENTIVE HEALTH PACKAGES DETAILS AND PRICE


Urgent care Aruba contributes to medical tourism by offering preventive health packages

Oranjestad - Since the start of the pandemic, people have become more aware of the importance and contribution of the healthcare sector.






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 <p>PRE-BASIC CHECKUP</p> <p>Consult + Exam Glucose Kidney Check LiverFunction ECG+Interpretation</p>	 <p>WELL WOMAN CHECKUP</p> <p>Consult + Exam Consult + Pap Smear Glucose Lipid Profile Urinalysis Stool Test Haemoglobin UltrasoundAbdomen Chest X-Ray ECG+Interpretation</p>	 <p>BASIC CHECKUP</p> <p>Consult + Exam Consult + Pap Smear Glucose, Lipid Profile Electrolytes, Uric Acid Total PSA, Urea Urinalysis, CreatinineHaemoglobi nUltrasound Abdomen Chest X-Ray ECG+Interpretation</p>	 <p>EXECUTIVE CHECKUP</p> <p>Consult + Exam Consult + Pap Smear Glucose, Lipid Profile Electrolytes, Uric Acid Total PSA, Urea Urinalysis, Creatinine Total Protein SGPT/SGOT/Alkaline/GGTP/ Bilirubin UltrasoundAbdomen+ Thyroids, Chest X-Ray ECG + Interpretation</p>	 <p>SENIORCITIZEN CHECKUP</p> <p>Consult + Exam Consult + Pap Smear Glucose, Lipid Profile Electrolytes, Uric Acid Total PSA, Urea Urinalysis, Stool Test, Creatinine, Total Protein SGPT/SGOT/Alkaline/GGTP/Bilirubin, Hormones Ultrasound Abdomen + Thyroids, Chest X-Ray ECG+Interpretation Fondoscopy/GlaucomaTonometry</p>

VISIT WWW.URGENTCARE.AW FOR DETAILS AND PRICE

People have also become more aware of their overall health. Urgent Care Aruba, under the guidance of Yagua Health Group, offers preventive health packages as a yearly program to patients to keep their health in check.

We provide regular urgent care services but we have since expanded our services to become an added value in the health care system on the island to locals, island visitors, and the region.

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Honoring of loyal visitors at Hyatt Hotel

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees were Anthony and Mary Ann Savoca, who are residents of Milford, CT and have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for the friendly and warm local people, beautiful beaches and water, the always perfect weather and facilities, amazing restaurants and the fun, helpful and friendly people of Aruba.

Heyliger together with Mr. Avery Shipley of Hyatt Hotel presented the certificates to the honorees, handed



over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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For Directions

It's time to laugh!

Starting TONIGHT - Aruba Ray's Comedy returns!

Twelve outstanding comedians this summer, live in Aruba!

Aruba Ray's Comedy, located inside the Marriott Ocean Club in the high rise area in Palm Beach, returns for its NINTH season starting tonight, Tuesday July 12th.

Rated as both THE #1 Show and #1 Nightlife Activity in Aruba on TripAdvisor, Aruba Ray's Comedy was just named as one of USA Today's "Ten Best!" for the second time. The ninety minute standup comedy show features comedians who have appeared on Netflix, HBO, Comedy Central, Showtime, and all the major television networks.

The show is hilarious, and an outstanding way to spend a night out.

"We are very excited to return to the Marriott, and inside the Champions space! It's a perfect venue for standup comedy, and this summer's group of performers is truly spectacular," said Ray "Aruba Ray" Ellin, who opened the venue in Aruba in 2013 after falling in love with the island.

Ellin clearly knows comedy. Besides founding and hosting the shows at Aruba Ray's, he was an Executive Producer of the popular television show "This Week at the Comedy Cellar" on Comedy Central, and produced and directed the 20th Century Fox film "The Latin Legends of Comedy." He has served as host of many tv shows in the States, and performs regularly at Comedy Cellar in New York, one of the best comedy venues in America.

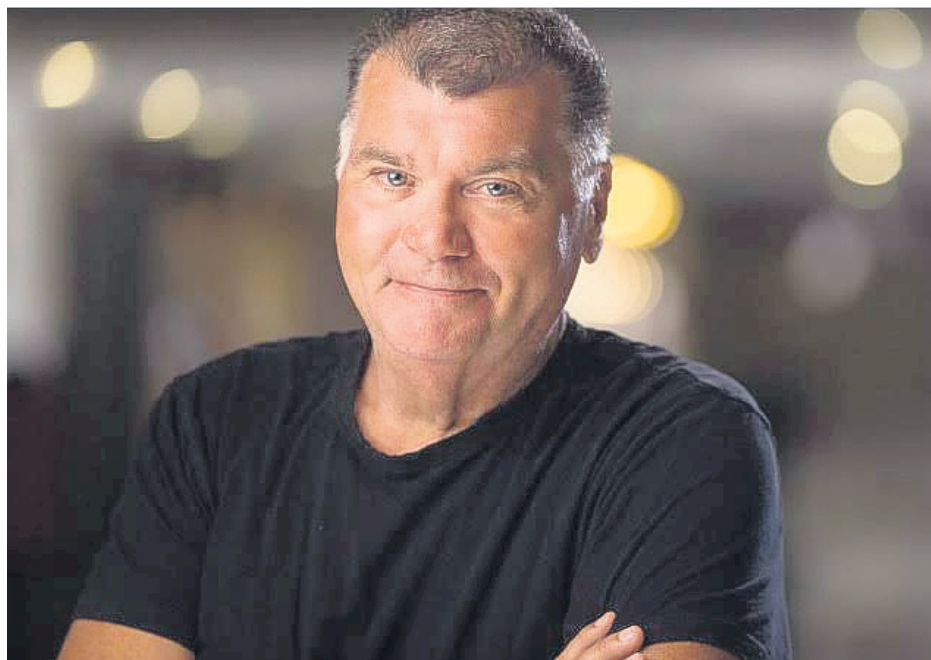
Among the first timers performing at Aruba Ray's are New York favorite John Joseph, Blapp App



founder Jon Laster, and star-in-the-making Zarna Garg, who was not only named the winner of the nationwide "Ladies Of Laughter" competition, but has also amassed over 100 million views on Tik Tok.

Returning favorites include Tony V, who recently appeared in the Academy Award winning film "Coda," Nick at Nite's "Funniest Mom in America" Christine Hurley, and Joey Vega, who performs in arenas around the globe with Chris Rock and Marc Anthony.

"America's Got Talent" finalist Dan Naturman will also be taking the stage, as will NPR's Ophira Eisenberg.



After the comedy show, guests are invited to enjoy the dj in Champions, and redeem their free Stellaris Casino promotion in the casino next door.

Tickets for the shows are limited. You can purchase them IN ADVANCE online at www.arubacomedy.com and consider the optional three course pre-show dinner

menu as well, which guarantees preferred seating.

Ellin encourages attendees to bring books for students in Aruba, which he distributes at the local schools.

For the complete lineup and more information, visit www.arubacomedy.com or call 297-586-9000. □



Meet the 'Fighter for Kids'

The reason why Carolina Thiel-Span is like the Energizer bunny



She is not unknown in Aruba, but few realize that maybe the reason why Carolina Thiel-Span is so active in the social sphere on the island. These activities help her manage her OCD – that is, her Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

OCD, obsessive compulsive disorder is a condition that brings anxiety and restlessness to people, who find they are always looking for an activity to calm themselves. These activities often-times are repetitive and become compulsive. These compulsions provide temporary relief to the people with OCD. In severe cases, it can get in the way of the daily activities of a person, and some people find it difficult to cope with daily life.

But Carolina has learned to live with her OCD, and what's more, ever since she was young, her parents helped her manage her condition through planning her day. And by planning her day, her schedule, her activities, she developed abilities to take on projects, putting them together, and executing them.

Energizer Bunny

Any person who meets Carolina realizes that she is a fountain of energy. "Where did I get my energy? My husband says that I am the definition of the 'Energizer bunny'. I was always an active persona, and precisely on the days that I do less and are less active, I have less energy." When she is not active, Carolina feels a bit depressed. "I think this has to do with OCD, because by being active, I am in control."

Carolina was nine years old when her parents decided they needed to have their youngest daughter diagnosed. "Ever since I was a baby I was very irritable. I slept at night, but didn't sleep during the day. I was never able to nap, and was never calm on my own. Before, they thought I had ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)." And indeed they first had Carolina screened for ADHD, and her diagnosis indicated ADHD; but when she was older, a psychologist in the United States realized that her symptoms were more like OCD than ADHD. "It was more because the moments when I felt irritated, it wasn't because I had ADHD, but because I didn't have any control of what I was doing or what I wanted to do."

The diagnosis helped bring calm to Carolina, because through that, she was more aware of her compulsions and she could differentiate between when she was really doing something because she wanted things done well, versus she's doing too much (Carolina describes this as 'overdrive') without being realistic. "It helps

me a lot in my self-reflection, and it helped me decide when I need to take a break and say, now it's enough."

Confrontational

For Carolina, initially she was very confrontational when she received the OCD diagnosis. And what she realized was that same as with ADHD, same with Autism, there are various degrees of OCD and different ways in which the disorder manifests.

"When you think of OCD, the stereotype is people who are super organized and people who are always cleaning. I am not like that. I organized in a different way, but I'm not a person for whom all that is around me needs to be organized, or that I am obsessive with cleaning. On the contrary, I find myself a messy person." But her need to control manifests in another way. "For example, when we go on vacation, I need a clear itinerary, with little free time. That would give my family a lot of trouble when I was a kid, because I wanted to know what is happening every moment, and they found that annoying. They would have wanted to have a day without doing anything, and I found that annoying because in my mind, that is not possible. The need to organize is more about my time, and not about cleaning."

Carolina studied Public Health Management and she is working at the Public Health Inspection, and she is also two days at the Youth Management Direction, to co-execute the program of Early Intervention, focused on the crèche (daycare) system in Aruba.

Besides that, she is a volunteer specialized in fundraising for Koningin Wilhelmina Kanker Fonds (Queen Wilhelmina Cancer Foundation), she is a guide at Rainbow Girls and president of the Autism Foundation of Aruba.

Answering how her OCD helps her with all these responsibilities which overlap the whole week, even during the weekend, she says: "I try so that by the moment I get home, afternoon and evening, I make sure to have free time, so that I can connect with my husband, my family and my dogs. There are pros and cons in everything, but I do think the OCD helped me learn to be more organized to maximize my time". In other words, Carolina uses a disability as a tool for her personal and professional life. "I avoid procrastination, I never wait to do anything because, what if the computer breaks down. So I'm always pending and ready if something catastrophic happens, and that's why I finish things as soon as possible."

Over time, Carolina had to learn that she cannot always be in control of everything, and she needs to let go. "I am a work in progress, meaning that I need to understand other people and give them space so they can understand me, and give them time to tell me what they need. And here, communication is key. Carolina says that she is realizing that she can manage her OCD better without bothering other



people. Her husband always says to 'let it go', and they have a dog named Elsa. The name came because her niece is obsessed with the movie Frozen; but Carolina herself learned that sometimes, she needs to 'let it go' to be able to move forward. "It became a joke in our family."

Fighter for Kids

It was her parents who also realized it is important for Carolina to be involved in the community and organizations from a young age. "More and more I realize that I like to work with organizations focused on children. Why? Because I feel that the added value is more when working with kids. When you help them from a young age, the impact can last their whole lives. I'm not saying that you don't need to help all people, but for me, working with kids is satisfactory; they are still like a sponge, you can help form them and help them develop, which has impact on their whole life." And her catchy e-mail address, the 'fighter for kids'? That was the result of a group work during her study for the organization Kids Beating Cancer, and Carolina suggested the name 'Fighter for Kids'. When the project was finalized, she asked if she could take the name for herself, and the rest is history. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Strong winds
 - 6 Party dip
 - 11 Like gymnasts
 - 12 Court event
 - 13 Dialing
 - 15 Cain's mother
 - 16 Decline
 - 17 "— a Small World"
 - 18 Make good as new
 - 20 Take a load off
 - 21 Sphere
 - 22 "— Lisa"
 - 23 Suit pieces
 - 26 Worker with a pick
 - 27 Swiss peaks
 - 28 Grumpy friend
 - 29 Horse-shoe shape
 - 30 Instruments made from gourds
 - 34 Director DuVernay
 - 35 Termite's kin
 - 36 Carnival city

- 37 Faking being knocked out
- 40 Piano piece
- 41 Dike's kin
- 42 Train stop
- 43 Garden starters

C	A	R	E	D		D	E	E	D	
A	D	O	R	E		E	L	V	I	S
R	E	A	R	M		C	L	I	V	E
O	L	D		I	D	A		D	O	N
B	E	S	T	S	E	L	L	E	R	S
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O	M	I	T		S	E	A			
W	I	N	E	C	E	L	L	A	R	S
E	N	D		H	E	M		L	A	P
R	O	S	I	E		O	L	L	I	E
S	U	E	D	E		N	O	I	S	E
	S	T	O	P		T	O	N	E	D

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Arcade patron
 - 2 Tequila source
 - 3 Is fond of
 - 4 Quarter-back Manning
 - 5 Security system parts
 - 6 Theater fixture
 - 7 Pendulum path
 - 8 Inter-mediary
 - 9 Soup cracker
 - 10 Elite athlete
 - 14 Attire
 - 19 Young ones
 - 22 Layered mineral
 - 23 Cleared out
 - 24 Raise
 - 25 Get louder
 - 26 Human beings
 - 28 "Rats!"
 - 30 Painter Edouard
 - 31 Want badly
 - 32 Felt unwell
 - 33 Shoe parts
 - 38 Courtroom vow
 - 39 Fixed charge

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15				16				17		
18			19					20		
			21				22			
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27						28				
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34				35				36		
37			38					39		
40						41				
42						43				

7-12

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

H W M I U M K X X N N G X

H G F B X X H V I N W H I I H W ' X

O B A N . — A N I X B A G M A O N I M

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I GREW UP WATCHING "SUPERMAN." WHEN I FIRST LEARNED TO DIVE, I WASN'T DIVING; I WAS FLYING, LIKE SUPERMAN. — TOM HIDDLESTON

Kimberly Palmer: How to afford big-ticket items for the year



Sale signs are displayed at a home decor store in Northbrook, Ill., on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

Associated Press

By KIMBERLY PALMER of NerdWallet

When Brandy Baxter needed to replace her home's entire heating and air conditioning system several years ago, she asked contractors if they offered deals at certain times of the year. She learned that if she waited until February, the slow season for such work, she could get a lower price. Baxter, a financial coach based in Dallas, says she saved around \$6,000 as a result.

When it comes to saving money on big purchases, sometimes timing really is everything. Taking advantage of certain holiday weekends and seasonal discounts can lead to significant savings, which is especially helpful with inflation continuing to push prices higher. Consumers can also consider their own cash flow fluctuations and shop for big-ticket items when they can better afford them.

"There are two overarching principles: Purchase items in the offseason and purchase items during holiday weekends," says Kimberlee Stokes of Orlando, Florida, the founder of ThePeacefulMom.com, a website aimed at moms who want to save money and get organized. "It does require some planning."

Here's how to time your shopping to get the most out of your budget.

SHOP THE BIGGEST SALES WEEKENDS

Traditionally, three week-

ends of the year Memorial Day, July Fourth and Labor Day weekends are the best for deals on appliances, furniture and mattresses, says Trae Bodge, smart-shopping expert at TrueTrae.com, which offers savings tips. For electronics, Black Friday in November is the ideal time to buy, followed closely by Amazon's Prime Day sale, which is typically in July and this year runs July 12-13.

Bodge adds that some specific items have unique sales periods. Televisions typically see their lowest prices in late January and early February right before the Super Bowl.

If you miss a specific sale, Stokes says not to worry. The key is to plan ahead and track prices so you can make purchases during price dips, such as seasonal lulls. Buy winter sports gear in summer, or outdoor furniture in fall, for example. "If you can have some self-control and wait, you will get better deals," she says. It's also worth looking out for markdowns associated with inventory buildups, as supply chain issues continue to cause hiccups. When chains like Target and Walmart have excess stock, they tend to offer big sales, sometimes at unexpected times.

USE TOOLS TO TRACK PRICES AND APPLY COUPONS

You don't need to track prices manually apps and browser extensions can take care of that work. The Honey browser extension

pulls in coupons from across the web; CouponCabin alerts you to cash back and coupon opportunities; and Rakuten activates coupons and cash back from online stores at check-out. Amazon Assistant lets you know if Amazon offers a lower price when you're shopping elsewhere.

"If you don't have at least one extension installed on your computer, you're leaving money on the table," Bodge says. By tracking prices before sales weekends, you can make an informed decision about how good a deal is, she adds.

Baxter recommends saving items you're tracking on a wish list, a service offered by many online retailers as an alternative to placing items in your cart.

"If I need retail therapy, I put it on the list, and then I can see when the price goes up or down," Baxter says. "You can satisfy that desire for consumerism without separating yourself from your cash."

Sometimes, the retailer will alert you when the price of an item on your wish list drops.

CHECK FOR SALES TAX HOLIDAYS

Many states offer sales tax-free holidays, which can be an ideal time to buy expensive items that aren't otherwise on sale, Baxter suggests. Her state of Texas offers a sales tax holiday in early August, which coincides with back-to-school shopping, making it easier to pick up school supplies and other eligible items at a discount.

CONSIDER YOUR OWN CASH FLOW

There are times of the year when you may experience increased cash flow from sources such as a tax refund, annual bonus or birthday and graduation gifts. If that's the case, those can be ideal times to make large purchases without taking on debt, says Kevin Mahoney, the Washington, D.C.-based founder of Illumint, a financial planning firm for millennials. □

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Red Cross	582 2219

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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
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Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia
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Beyond buffets and slots: Casinos double down on fine art

By **WAYNE PARRY**

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

The Louvre, The Museum of Modern Art and ... the Hard Rock?

Hoping to expand their appeal beyond the slot machine and buffet crowd, some casinos are turning to fine art galleries or exhibitions to bring in new business from customers who might not otherwise visit a gambling hall.

In the process, they are helping not only broaden their own customer bases, but are also putting new eyeballs in front of some of the world's great works of art.

One such effort began Friday at Atlantic City's Hard Rock casino, where the highly acclaimed "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience" exhibit opened. The 30,000-square-foot display uses over 300 of Van Gogh's works, reproducing them digitally and projecting them onto screens, walls and floors.

"The whole point of an experience like this is to bring people in," said Fanny Curtat, the exhibit's art historian. "For a lot of people, museums are intimidating. It's all about exploring and having more ways of expe-



An image from the "Beyond Van Gogh" exhibit is projected onto a wall at the Hard Rock casino in Atlantic City, N.J., on Thursday, July 7, 2022.

Associated Press

riencing art."

Joe Lupo, the casino's president, said casinos need to appeal to as broad a range of potential customers as possible.

"You need to try different experiential things to help the city acquire new visitation, whether it's art or some other experience to acquire that person who

doesn't look at Atlantic City as just a gaming destination," he said. "The Van Gogh exhibit has been successful in every major market in the country, and Atlantic City needs to be looked at as one of those major markets. I think it elevates the city and the property with such a high-profile exhibit."

The walk-through exhibit projects Van Gogh's artwork onto the walls and floor of a viewing room, with images growing and flowing into one another: cherry trees, for example, sprout and grow blossoms, that then blow away in the breeze. Shimmering walls of color dissolve and flow into other shapes and images

all around the viewer.

Other casinos are doing likewise. The Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art in Las Vegas has displayed works by Picasso, Monet, Warhol, Titian and Van Gogh.

The Palms Casino Resort features modern art pieces from Jean-Michel Basquiat, Richard Prince and Andy Warhol, and numerous street artists.

MGM's Aria Resort features public art including sculptures by artists including Antony Gormley, Richard Long and Henry Moore.

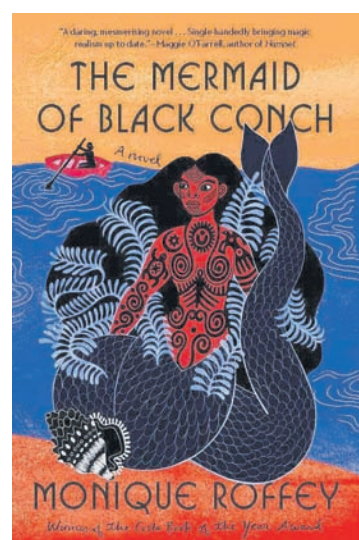
The Hippodrome Casino in London in 2013 appointed a digital artist in residence, Thomas D Gray, and offers a competition for U.K. artists to have their works displayed there.

Maryland's Live! Casino & Hotel has an art collection curated by Suzi Cordish, whose husband owns the casino.

The collection includes more than 40 works by artists including Warhol, Jennifer Steinkamp, Charlie Ahn, Robert Indiana and Not Vital.

"Many guests are intrigued once they realize the breath of the collection," said Renee Mutchnik, a spokesperson for the casino. □

Review: 'Mermaid of Black Conch' melds history and magic



This image released by Knopf shows cover art for "The Mermaid of Black Conch" by Monique Roffey.

Associated Press

By **DONNA EDWARDS**

Associated Press

David is a fisherman and Aycayia is a mermaid. It's pretty obvious where the

story goes from here: David falls for Aycayia. But author Monique Roffey isn't giving us an endearing tale of love — this is a story of duality and curses.

"The Mermaid of the Black Conch" is a uniquely Caribbean novel with all the hallmarks of the genre presented in different manners. Roffey moves between a general narrator, David's thickly Caribbean journal entries and broken stanzas of Aycayia's free-form poetry.

Insidiously, David and Aycayia's first meeting in 1976 is in Murder Bay. David is smitten by her strange beauty and Aycayia by his music.

David ceases fishing for fear of her entanglement in his nets, but his efforts backfire when Aycayia follows the

sound of his motor out to a fishing competition and is ensnared by two Yankee men, intent on a stunning victory, which, it turns out, is the mermaid.

Upon learning of her capture, David plans to rescue Aycayia and return her to the sea. But his scheme falls apart when she begins to change back into a woman, the curse put on her by other jealous women from her Taino tribe apparently lifting after some 1,000 years.

When Aycayia is inadvertently introduced to Reggie, the only deaf person on the island, they form a deep, fast bond on the basis of their otherness in Black Conch society. The mermaid metaphor is applied to gender, disability and oppression throughout

the book. They're filed under "curse," described as loneliness.

Sexual tension is constant throughout a story that, perversely, loses steam as it nears its climax. Roffey, however, makes up for a lackluster ending with the strong storytelling up to that point.

Vivid imagery, discussion-worthy themes, Creole verbiage and a melding of history and magic make "The Mermaid of the Black Conch" come to life. It's a confluence of lore in which subtle details change depending on who is telling the story. Each has their own idea of what it is to be a man, a woman, the oppressor, the oppressed, or something in between worlds.

In representing so many so

roundly, Roffey maintains a fine balancing act portraying identities that are not her own while connecting them to ones that are by their shared relationship: the push and pull that Aycayia comes to learn transcends the ocean, the bedroom and the human race to encapsulate nature as a whole.

The novel itself exhibits the same in-betweenness as its characters and author — who was born in Port of Spain, Trinidad, but lives in London — though "The Mermaid of the Black Conch" is far from cursed for it. Having won the Costa Book of the Year and the Costa Novel Award 2020, it seems Roffey has hit her stride with her fifth book, being re-released with its new accolades to adorn it. □

AP Exclusive: New skate blade for off-ice training unveiled

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

In almost two decades of training NHL players, Kelly Riou tried just about everything to help them replicate the unnatural motion of skating when they're off the ice.

He believes he has now found it, with the help of a retired quarterback and a drone engineer, and hopes it revolutionizes the way hockey players at all levels train in the gym. His Alien Kinetics company unveiled DriBlades and accompanying weighted slide Monday following development and testing involving a handful of NHL players who work with Riou.

"It's been on my mind to close the gap to allow guys to train and give strength coaches, skating coaches a little bit more of an accurate tool for this crazy locomotion of skating," Riou told The Associated Press. "Because of the demands of the game, this should've been around before me, truthfully, because the BOSU balls, the unstable surfaces — other measures we use to really try to facilitate or help the player



Vegas Golden Knights NHL hockey team defenseman Brayden McNabb works out in DriBlades that were developed for off-ice training for hockey players, at Kelly Riou's Next Level Training Centre in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Associated Press

develop — those weren't close enough."

Players pop out the regular blades and can replace them with the DriBlades to do lifting and other dry-land workouts. Already one of the best skaters in the league, Stanley Cup champion Chandler Stephenson has tried them out, along with current Vegas Golden

Knights teammate Brayden McNabb, Kole Lind of the Seattle Kraken and Lane Pederson of the San Jose Sharks. He raved about the benefits.

"Everything I've done before that's 'hockey-related' has been on the ice, so to have something off-ice where you can break down even more, to work on ev-

ery inch of your blades, has been great," Stephenson said. "It's like having a driving range for hockey. It's just been crazy to feel the toes, the heels, the whole sole of your foot. This has made me better because it makes you feel more grounded."

The metal skate insert and the Abductor slide — which

former QB Jason Johnson and co-founder called "a dumbbell for your feet" — was developed with assistance from inventor and entrepreneur Zenon Dragan, known for developing drone technology and having one of his featured in the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum.

Riou said it helps players move their legs in and out off the ice like skating better than using a towel or something else to provide resistance.

Acknowledging how hard it is to translate gym work to the ice, McNabb said he got hooked on using the DriBlades.

"All those little muscles you can't get to unless you are on ice, you can target," McNabb said. "After I stepped on the ice, I noticed an immediate difference." Johnson, who played at the University of Arizona and then three seasons in the Canadian Football League, said the most common responses from those who tried the blades were, "Why didn't we have this 20 years ago?" and "Why haven't I always been using this?" □

Federer unranked for 1st time in 25 years; Djokovic to No. 7

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)

— Roger Federer dropped out of the ATP rankings entirely for the first time in a quarter-century on Monday, while Novak Djokovic slid four spots to No. 7 a day after winning Wimbledon for the seventh time.

Federer had appeared in the singles rankings every week since he made his debut at age 16 in September 1997, tied for 803rd, and held the record for most time at No. 1 until Djokovic broke it.

Federer was 97th before play began at the All England Club but now has zero points because the rankings are based on a player's results over the previous 52 weeks — and he has not competed at all since reaching the Wimbledon quarterfinals a year ago.

Shortly after that loss, Federer had his third operation on his right knee in a span of about 18 months. Federer, who turns 41 on Aug. 8, intends to make his return to tournament play in his native Switzerland in October and said during an appearance at Centre Court last weekend that he hopes he can play at Wimbledon next year.

Djokovic's drop and that of runner-up Nick Kyrgios from No. 40 to No. 45 despite reaching the first Grand Slam final of his career are a result of the decisions by the WTA and ATP to not award any ranking points for Wimbledon in response to the All England Club's ban on athletes from Russia and Belarus over the war in Ukraine.

On Monday, Djokovic, Kyrgios and all other players lost whatever points they

earned at Wimbledon in 2021, while not gaining any benefit from how they performed during this fortnight. So Elena Rybakina's first Grand Slam title did her no good in the WTA rankings; she remained at No. 23, where she became the second-lowest women's champion at the grass-court tournament in the professional era, which began in 1968.

The woman she beat in Saturday's final, Ons Jabeur, went from No. 2 to No. 5, even though this was her best showing at a major. Last year's losing finalist, Karolina Pliskova, fell eight spots to No. 15, and some women who moved ahead of her achieved their career highs on Monday, including Australian Open runner-up Danielle Collins at No. 7, U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu at



Serbia's Novak Djokovic and Switzerland's Roger Federer applaud during a 100 years of Centre Court celebration on day seven of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday, July 3, 2022.

Associated Press

No. 10, and French Open runner-up Coco Gauff at No. 11.

French Open champion Iga Swiatek, whose 37-match winning streak ended in Wimbledon's third round, remained at No. 1.

Daniil Medvedev, who is Russian, stayed atop the men's rankings after not being allowed to compete at Wimbledon. He won last year's U.S. Open and was the runner-up at this year's Australian Open. □

Ohtani a 2-way All-Star again; 6 Yankees, 5 Braves, Astros

By **RONALD BLUM**

NEW YORK (AP) — In a city of stars, the Angels' Shohei Ohtani and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw will be in the spotlight July 19 at Dodger Stadium.

"I think it's been a couple of years since I got to compete in an All-Star Game, and something about Dodger Stadium, too, is special," Kershaw said after pitchers and reserves were announced Sunday. "I don't take that for granted. Like I said before, I hope I didn't take anybody's spot that was more deserving than me, but now that it's official and I get to do it, I am very excited about it."

A year after he became the first two-way All-Star, Ohtani was picked for the American League pitching staff as a Major League Baseball selection, two days after he was elected by fans to start at designated hitter.

Kershaw, 6-2 with a 2.40 ERA, and pitcher Tony Gonsolin were chosen from the host Dodgers, joining starting outfielder Mookie Betts and shortstop Trea Turner. Kershaw was picked by MLB and is a favorite to open on the mound for the NL, which has lost eight straight All-Star Games and 20 of the last 23 played to a decision.

"I'm going to try to take it all in as best I can," said the 34-year-old left-hander, a three-time Cy Young Award winner. "As the years go by, you start to appreciate things a bit more, so



Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani sits in the dugout during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Sunday, July 10, 2022, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

every time I get to pitch at Dodger Stadium, every time we get a win, every time something significant happens, I try to take it in a little bit more now."

Pitchers Clay Holmes, Gerrit Cole and Nestor Cortes made the AL team from the Yankees along with catcher Jose Trevino, giving New York six All-Stars for the first time since 2011. Outfielders Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton were elected to start.

Defending AL champion Houston has five All-Stars, with pitchers Justin Verlander and Framber Valdez, outfielder Kyle Tucker and designated hitter Yordan Alvarez selected along with starting second

baseman Jose Altuve. Alvarez went on the injured list Sunday because of right hand inflammation.

World Series champion Atlanta also has five. Pitcher Max Fried, catcher Travis d'Arnaud, shortstop Dansby Swanson and DH William Contreras joined outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr., who was elected by fans.

Contreras will be the NL's DH in place of Philadelphia's Bryce Harper, who was elected to start but broke his left thumb on June 25.

Contreras joins Chicago Cubs catcher Willson Contreras as the first brothers in the same All-Star Game since Aaron and Bret Boone in 2003. They will be

just the fifth brothers to start in an All-Star Game after Mort and Walker Cooper in 1942 and '43, Dixie and Harry Walker in 1947, Joe and Dom DiMaggio in 1949 and Roberto and Sandy Alomar Jr. in 1992.

The New York Mets, St. Louis and Toronto have four All-Stars.

Seattle outfielder Julio Rodríguez was the lone rookie picked and at 21 is the youngest of this year's All-Stars. There are 30 first-time All-Stars and Rodríguez, who debuted on April 8, is among 10 age 24 or younger.

Ohtani, the reigning AL MVP, is hitting .260 with 19 homers and 59 RBIs and is 8-4 with a 2.44 ERA, 111

strikeouts and 20 walks in 81 innings. He has won five consecutive starts and is coming off a Wednesday outing at Miami when he became the first player in major league history to strike out 10 batters, drive in two runs and steal a base. In the AL's 5-2 win last year at Colorado, Ohtani pitched a 1-2-3 first inning by retiring Fernando Tatis Jr., Max Muncy and Nolan Arenado, and grounded out twice.

Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera is the senior All-Star with 12 selections and St. Louis DH Albert Pujols is second with 11, both picks of baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred under a provision for career achievements in the new collective bargaining agreement.

Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout is next with 10, followed by Kershaw and Verlander with nine apiece. Trout was picked for the ninth straight time.

AL pitchers elected by players included Cleveland's Emmanuel Clase, Baltimore's Jorge López, Toronto's Alek Manoah and Tampa Bay's Shane Bieber along with Cole, Cortes, Holmes and Verlander.

NL pitchers picked by players were Miami's Sandy Alcantara, Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes and Josh Hader, the Mets' Edwin Díaz, St. Louis' Ryan Helsley and San Diego's Joe Musgrove along with Fried and Gonsolin. □



Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice gestures while speaking at the NFL Women's Summit, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

Condoleezza Rice added to new Broncos ownership group

By **PAT GRAHAM**

DENVER (AP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has been added to the new Broncos ownership group.

Rob Walton announced the inclusion of Rice in a statement issued Monday on behalf of the Walton-Penner family ownership group. The group agreed to buy the franchise from the Pat Bowlen Trust last month for a reported \$4.65

billion. It's pending approval by the NFL.

"A highly respected public servant, accomplished academic and corporate leader, Secretary Rice is well known as a passionate and knowledgeable football fan who has worked to make the sport stronger and better," Walton said in a statement. "Her unique experience and extraordinary judgment will be a great benefit to our group

and the Broncos organization."

Rice has strong ties to the Denver community. She received her undergraduate degree and Ph.D. from the University of Denver.

The former provost at Stanford University, Rice served as Secretary of State under President George W. Bush from 2005-09. She's also been on the College Football Playoff selection committee and chaired

a commission on college basketball.

The new ownership group is led by Walton and includes his daughter, Carrie Walton Penner, and her husband, Greg Penner.

Walton, 77, was chairman of Walmart, the world's largest retailer, from 1992-2015, when he retired. He is the eldest son of founder Sam Walton and Helen Walton and has an estimated net worth of nearly \$60 billion. □